

CONGRESSMAN BOUCHER ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING TO DEPLOY BROADBAND SERVICES TO LEE COUNTY

More than \$500,000 Federal Grant Will Establish High-Speed Internet Access to 50 Homes and Businesses in the Rose Hill Community

10 New Computer Workstations Will be Added to the Rose Hill Public Library

(Abingdon, Virginia) - U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Utilities Service, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$506,048 to LENOWISCO, Inc. to establish access to high-speed broadband services in the Rose Hill community of Lee County. **“The federal funding which is being provided today will enable LENOWISCO to establish access to high-speed Internet and digital television and telephone services for the residents and businesses of the Rose Hill Community,”** Boucher said.

Residents and businesses in the Rose Hill community of Lee County currently have no access to high-speed broadband services. Rather, local residents and businesses are reliant on much slower methods of accessing the Internet to conduct business or for personal use. With the federal funding announced today, LENOWISCO will deploy fiber optic cable from its Internet backbone, across the “last mile,” to approximately 40 homes and 10 businesses in the Rose Hill community. The new fiber optics will be installed along the Daniel Boone Trail from Martins Creek to Indian Creek and along the new four-lane crossing at U.S. Route 58 in Rose Hill.

In addition to the broadband services which will become available, the federal Rural Utilities Service grant will be used to purchase 10 new computer workstations to expand the public Internet access site at the Rose Hill Public Library. Currently, the library houses two public-access computers. Lee County plans to construct an addition at the Rose Hill Public Library to house the new computers. Boucher noted that the new broadband services will improve the Internet access at the library. **“The Internet services provided to the Rose Hill Public Library can at times prove to be unreliable due to the weak connection and aging telecommunications infrastructure.”** Deploying new fiber optic cables will greatly

improve the Internet services available to residents of Rose Hill who make use of the public access computer workstations," he said.

"The economic development of Southwest Virginia is my top priority. With the federal funding I have announced today, high-speed Internet services will soon become available to the residents and business owners of the Rose Hill community. This is another step in bringing broadband services to all of Lee County and will open many new doors to expand and stimulate the County's economy," Boucher concluded.